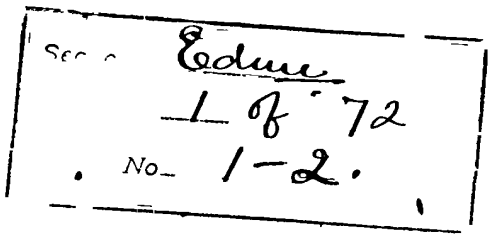
1872-73

Later reference
5 of 1877-78



Appointment of a Committee
to examine Text Books in use
in Schools

Inserted
BB

Memo

Appointment of a General Committee to revise School Books

Of the papers below one is a Resolution of the Govern^t of India dated 29^th March on the above subject, and the other a confidential supplementary letter of the same date enjoining the disuse or expurgation of immoral text-books —

2 The only action required is the appointment of a Committee to report on the points noted in para: 6 of the Resolution This should perhaps be done by the Offg Chief Commissioner without consulting the Director of Public Instruction who will of course be a member of the Committee I would suggest the following names

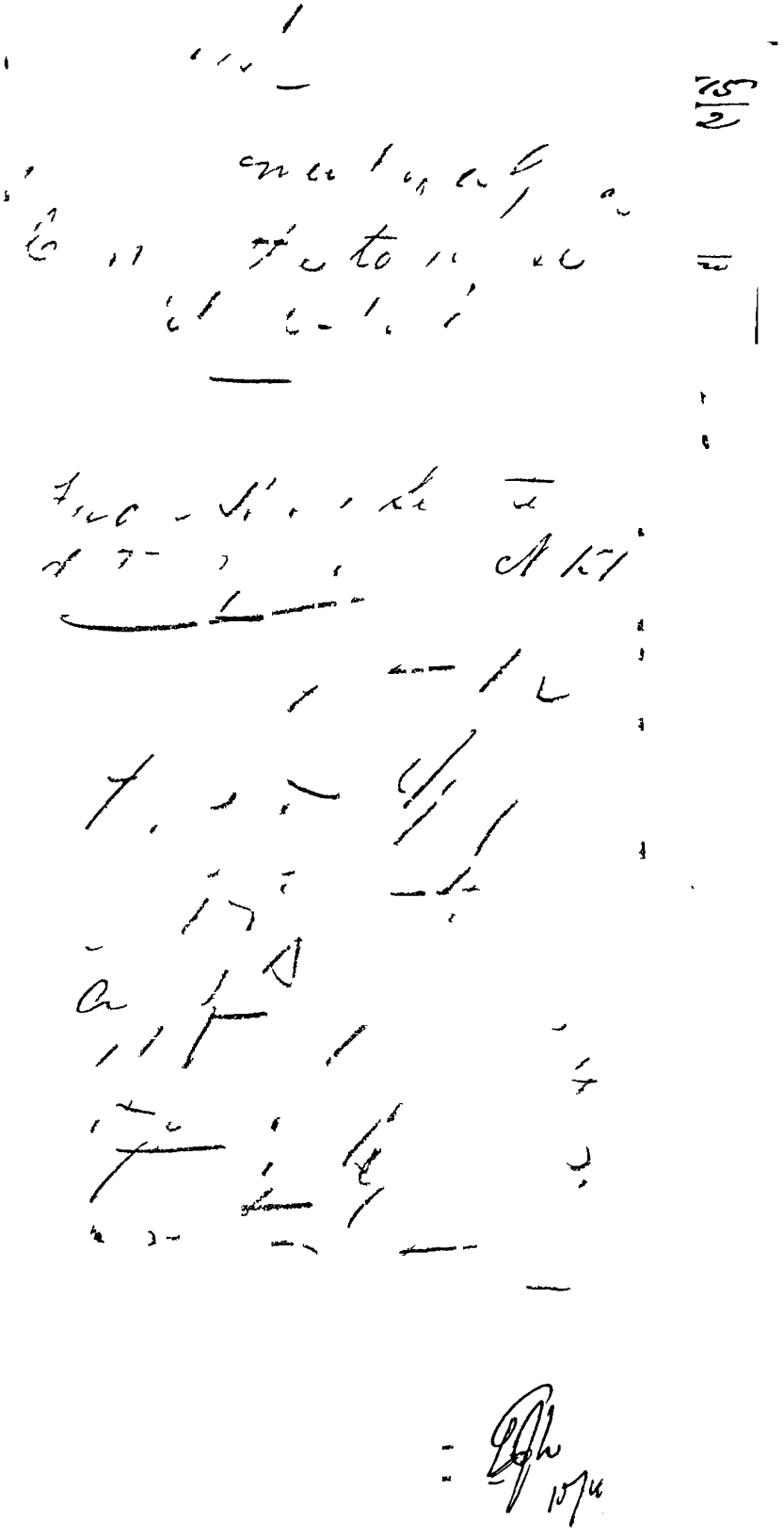
Mr Rice offg Director
Dr Pope
Col Malleson (unless his absence from Bangalore is an objection) —
Mr Thumboo Chetty —

9/4

24/3 — 9/4

I would substitute M^r C Rungachariar's name for Col Malleson and add Capt Mackenzie as Secty Before appointing Dr Pope & M^r C R, ask their consent to act

10/4



Dated.

Despatched.

Received April 1873

Enclosures No

General No

No 151

Sent to Sel. No 1

No 143

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Education)—under date Fort William the 17th March 1873

RESOLUTION

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL has lately found reason to believe that the attention of Local Governments and Administrations might usefully be drawn toward the method upon which text books are now compiled or chosen for public instruction in schools

2 It is understood that these books belong to two classes

(I)—Those that are specially written or compiled for use in schools

(II)—Those that are selected out of general literature for study and examination in schools

3 The question has been raised whether in either of these two classes the books now used are altogether accordant with what appears to His Excellency in Council to be a sound principle of elementary education namely that the contents of the books taught shall be as much as possible within easy range of the pupils' comprehension and ordinary experience His Excellency in Council believes that it is important to lay out the course of school teaching in India upon this principle The introduction of books containing allusions to scenes or ideas which boys of this country cannot possibly realize or appreciate is apt to hinder progress in mastering the language itself which should be the main object of education at this stage while examinations upon this kind of instruction must have a tendency toward favouring the practice of what is commonly called cramming which in the training of schools it is particularly expedient to discourage For while the more advanced student may be required rapidly to acquaint himself with a variety of new ideas and of references to things which open out fresh lines of thought or points of view to the school boy all facts that are above his head or beyond his experience are a set of isolated expressions carrying no meaning and raising no associations The consequence is that he must usually learn such things by rote and must fill his head with them unprofitably by the mere effort of memory as when for instance he is put to read or is questioned in extracts from pieces of English poetry full of classical metaphors and allusions to European history or when he is taken through a chapter from an English novel of social life

4 His Excellency would therefore shape the course of text books more closely toward their main object—elementary knowledge of the language in which they are written coupled with useful instruction in common things he would largely substitute familiar for foreign subjects and in examinations he would avoid testing a boy's capacity to retain and repeat what cannot yet be of use to him

5 His Excellency is not unmindful of the exertions which at various times and in different Provinces have already been made to supply the demand for proper school books in India and to deal with the difficulties that underlie the salient points here only touched upon The Madras School Book Society not only did much in this field up to 1864 but afterwards projected a scheme for providing a Vernacular literature to educated adults Mr H S Reid while Director of Public Instruction in the North Western Provinces

did a great deal, with his coadjutors, toward the editing and arrangement of school books, and the services rendered to education by Mr J L Murdoch LL D, are known to the Supreme Government The question has been kept in view by other administrations, and the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, in his review of the Educational Report for 1871 72, desired most careful attention to improvement of the existing text books, observing that improvement was very much needed His Excellency in Council, however, considers that more general revision of the books used in all the courses of public teaching is still expedient, and in some respects even necessary

6 For this purpose it has been determined that all Local Governments and Administrations shall be requested to appoint Committees to examine and report upon the class books that are now prescribed in all those schools which receive any formal support from the State, in order to discover defects either in form or substance, and to adapt more carefully the course of authorized reading to the general educational policy Whether prizes might not be offered for sound and suitable elementary school books, if such are found to be wanting, is a suggestion which the Committees will no doubt consider in its place

7 A report upon the conclusions adopted by these Committees, and upon the steps thereupon taken, should be submitted hereafter to His Excellency in Council

N-157

ORDER —Ordered, that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations

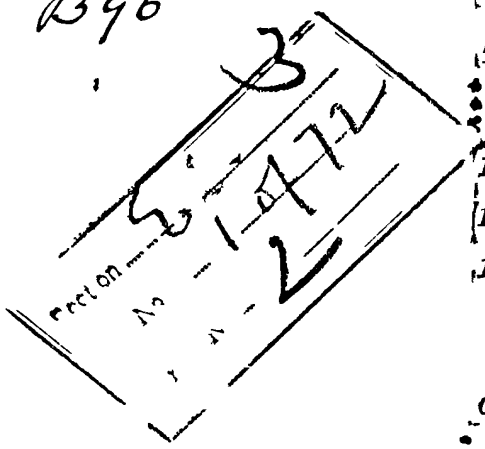
(True Extract)

A C Lyall

Secretary to the Govt of India

Exd —C A S

I
B96



1874

From

To The Director of the Public Instruction

Dated 24
Despatched } May
Received

Enclosures No

General No 815
No 2

Copy order on the Report of the Committee on the Book Committee the schools of Mysore & Coorg

4

No 815 of 2 May 1874

Order — Circular — 14

- cerpt of the Reso-
- lution of the Govt
of India No 157, dated
the 29th March, 1873
a Committee com-
-posed of the gentle-
men named in the
margin, was ap-
-pointed to report on
the books in use in
the Schools of Mysore
and Coorg, and to
submit suggestions
on the points noted
in the Government
Resolution

Pres:

2

B L Rice Esqre Chairman
Capt J S F Mackenzie
Secy

Members

Dr G U Pope
C Rungacharlu Esqre
I R A Thumboo Chetty Esqre
Mahomed Ali Esqre
H Narasimmiah Esqre
A. Sreenivasachary

2 This report is now before the Chief Commissioner and he directs that this ac-knowledgments of their labours may be communicated to the Members of the Committee.

3 The Chief Commissioner concurs generally in the views of the Committee on all the points noted in the Report, more especially the recommendations summarized below.

H The Committee recommended

I. The compilation of certain works in English, Viz Grammar, Arithmetic, Histories and Geography which would be of use generally to all India

II The preparation of expurgated editions of certain works Sanscrit and Persian, which would also be of general use through the empire

III The compilation of Reading books English and Vernacular, a grammar with exercises in the vernacular for translation, a work on school management; a vernacular translation of the same and of the Histories and Geography to be prepared provincially in view to their adaptation to the locality in which they are to be used

IV The holding of a conference of representatives of Canarese

Canarese School Literature from Madras Mysore and Bombay in order to a common understanding between them regarding Canarese School Books, and the introduction of a single series in all Govt or aided Schools throughout all Canarese Districts -

5 With reference to the works enumerated under the first two heads the Chief Commissioner considers that their preparation ~~should~~ needs, if approved,

be carried out under
the orders of the Govt
of India ~~at whatever~~
~~cost, and to be~~ as an
Imperial undertaking
and further that in
their preparation
should be entrusted
to persons specially
nominated for the
purpose who should
receive a fixed hono-
-rarium for their
services The prepa-
-ration of those in-
-cluded under the
3rd head should be
entrusted to specially

10 qualified persons in the provinces concern-
-ed, similarly nomi-
-nated to the duty
and remunerated
therefor

If the latter pro-
-posal is approved
by the Govt of India
steps will be taken
to carry it into ef-
-fect as regards the
books required for
use in Mysore -

6 The proposal
in para. 40 of the
report recommending
a carefully prepared

regret of the princi-
pal English Gram-
mars for use in all
Schools, appears to
the Chief Commis-
-sioner to be of doubt-
ful utility, but the
suggestion in para 42
to supply an elemen-
tary work on Gram-
mar of the character
described therein,
for use in Anglo
Vernacular Schools
is a desirable one,
and may be adopt-
-ed with advantage

The Chief Commissioner concurs in the remark at the close of para 50 of the report regarding the works on Arithmetic. The preparation of a work based on the best European methods both as regards Arithmetic and Algebra, without altogether ignoring the native works, would, in the Chief Commr's opinion meet a decided want, while it would not

interfere

undefore with the study
of the Standard Eng-
-lish works by advanced
Students.—

8 The remarks
of the Committee on
Geometry para 56
refer rather to the
Curriculum for the
University Examina-
-tion than to the
question of revision
of School Text-Books,
and the questions to
therefore apparently
beyond the scope
of the Committee—

9 The Chief Com-
-missioner generally
agrees with the Com-
-mittee in the re-
-marks contained in
paras 59 to 63, and
observes that there
is no more difficult
question than that
of dealing with the
subject of the selec
-tion of suitable
Historical Works as
School Text-books
Col Meade conclud-
-es that a real
knowledge of History
can

can only be acquired
by much and varied
reading, and that
a single work could
scarcely be brought
to supply it. The
elementary histories
referred to by the Com-
mittee can hardly
be otherwise than
bald and imperfect;
containing little
more than names,
words, and dates.

The Chief Com-
missioner ~~considers~~ is disposed to think
that the wants

so

so universally felt
of suitable general
and Indian schools
-ries will be better
supplied as the sub-
-ject is left to private
individuals

2 — The C.C. concurs
in the remarks in Chap
ter 5 of the report re-
-garding Geography

11 The Committee
proposals on the sub-
ject of Physical
Science / Chapter 6,
are the CC thinks

hardly practicable &
he fears that the sub-
-ject is one that must
be regarded as an
advance of the ordinary
School Education which
at present obtains ~~&~~
~~Upon which he thinks~~
~~he considers~~ that ~~the~~
instruction in physical
~~should form part of~~
science ~~might be~~
~~of the Examinations~~
~~left for the Universities~~
~~&~~ ~~might be left to~~
12 The Chief Comm.
entirely agrees with
the Committee in their
observations regarding
instruction in Mental
and Moral Philoso-
-phy Col Meade
fully realizes the
importance of more

systematic teaching on
the latter especially subject in all
Schools. With reference
to this subject, the C.C.
thinks that while the
Dogmas of religion are
excluded from Govt
Schools, and
morals may
be taught by the intro-
duction of work specially
prepared for that purpose
This work might, for
instance, embody lessons
on the existence of a
Supreme Being, Divine
rewards for virtue and
punishments for vice,
injunctions to truth
piety and godliness
the duty that subjects
owe to the State.

themselves and to humanity in general, all of which are truths upheld by all religions, and there could therefore in Col Meade's opinion be no objection to their being taught in Govt Schools

13- In chapter VIII some useful practical suggestions are offered under the heads "School Management" "Translations" and "Cheap Books" which appear to be worthy of consideration -

A work on School management is no doubt much needed. The Committee further state that in many Schools inferior text-books are used on account of their cheapness There could be no doubt -

that

that this reland's pro-
gress in Education,
and in preference to
adopting the Committee
proposal. Viz:, that
the Govt should publish
large and stereotyped
editions of works, the
Cc. thinks that the
Govt ~~should~~ might procure
from England, the
books used in Schools
and place them
within the reach of
all Students by selling
them at cost price.
15. It is ~~the Committee~~
suggested para 80 that
School Book Commn
should be appointed

from time to time under each Administration for the purpose of revising at certain intervals the course of study pursued in Schools, in order that the Standard of instruction in any Dist. may not fall behind the age. The suggestion was a good one & Col Meade considers that a Standing Board Committee at each Dep't or Gov't Head Quarters would probably be the best mode of providing for the real requirements

of the case. Dist should
this be unpracticable,
a specially qualified
Officer may, he con-
-siders, be appointed,
as required, under the
Educational head of
each Govt for this
purpose.

16 The Committee
further urge in paras
80 & 82 the necessity
for the creation of a
pure vernacular
literature for students
who have passed
through the Schools,
and who are desirous
of turning to it for
mental improvement
and recreation and

suggest that popular
editions of Standard
Works freed from all
objectionable passages,
and free translations
of modern Travels of
Asiatics and Europeans
might be prepared
and published with
this object. Col Meade
considers that without
going so far as to ex-
-purgate all passages,
in the vernacular
literature generally,
that may be classed
as objectionable, it
would suffice to issue
some general rule that
~~only~~ text-books for use
in Schools should be
freed

freed from every thing
that is objectionable,
while those for the
University Examination
should be free of such
portions only, as are
absolutely indecent
or immoral.

Yr. Obt. Servt.
The Director of Public Instruction

1874